

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Yagasaki fails to describe or suggest classifying the search term and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search. Rather, Yagasaki describes a mall server that categorizes products into different categories. Upon request by a user, a search screen is presented to the user that displays a list of categories from which the user may select a predefined category. For instance, as shown in Fig. 7 of Yagasaki, the user is presented with product search screen 52 from which the user may select from a list of categories 52b to search and then perform a search of a selected category by clicking on the search button 52f. In response to the search, the products associated with that category are displayed. See Yagasaki, col. 7, lines 5-55 and Fig. 7.

Yagasaki does not describe or suggest classifying a received search term among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claims 1 and 16. No search term is received and classified in Yagasaki. Instead, the user merely selects a predefined category and then all items for that category are displayed. No search term is received and classified, where the classification is used to select among different electronic information stores to search.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1 and 16, and their respective dependent claims 2, 3, and 5.

Claims 4 and 6

Claims 4 and 6, which depend from independent claim 1, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of Russell-Falla et al. (U.S. 6,266,664). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Yagasaki and Russell-Falla, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest the features discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As noted above, Yagasaki fails to describe or suggest classifying the received search term

among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claim 1. Russell-Falla fails to remedy the Yagasaki shortcomings and, notably, is not relied upon in the Office Action to support the rejection of these features.

For at least these reasons and based on the dependency of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 6.

Claims 7 and 8

Claims 7 and 8, which depend from independent claim 1, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of Sundaresan (U.S. 6,606,620). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Yagasaki and Sundaresan, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest the features discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As noted above, Yagasaki fails to describe or suggest classifying the received search term among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claim 1. Sundaresan fails to remedy the Yagasaki shortcomings and, notably, is not relied upon in the Office Action to support the rejection of these features.

For at least these reasons and based on the dependency of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection § 103(a) of claims 7 and 8.

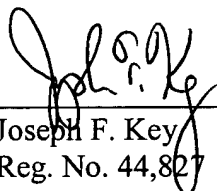
Applicant : Thomas E. Donaldson et al.
Serial No. : 09/749,798
Filed : December 28, 2000
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Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-146001 / Search 02

Enclosed is a \$120 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. During the prosecution of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/10/2005



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